

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A latching mechanism for assembly of a housing of an electronic device, comprising:

a latch element; and

a receiving element contained within the housing, wherein the receiving element comprises:

a recess for engaging the latch element, and

at least one audio port for providing an audio channel for the electronic device.

2. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a gap formed between the latch element and the receiving element,

wherein the audio channel further comprises the gap.

3. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein the latch element is rotatably coupled to the recess, and further wherein the latch element rotation includes a first orientation for disengaging the latch element from the housing and a second orientation for engaging the latch element within the housing.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

4. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 3, wherein the latch element comprises a protrusion, wherein the recess further comprises a similarly-shaped opening, and further wherein the protrusion aligns with the similarly-shaped opening in the second orientation.

5. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 4, wherein the protrusion misaligns with the similarly-shaped opening in the first orientation.

6. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a secondary latch element, wherein at least a portion of the housing is mechanically coupled between the latch element and the secondary latch element, wherein the secondary latch element comprises at least one secondary latch element audio port aligned with the at least one audio port, and further wherein the audio channel further comprises the at least one secondary latch element audio port.

7. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 6, wherein the electronic device further comprises:

an audio element, wherein at least a portion of the secondary latch element is mechanically coupled between the audio element and at least a portion of the housing.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

8. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 8, wherein the audio element generates an audio output, and further wherein the audio output is transmitted through the audio channel.

9. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 7, wherein the audio element receives an audio input through the audio channel.

10. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 6, wherein the secondary latch element comprises:

an audio plate coupled between the latch element and at least a portion of the housing, wherein the audio plate includes at least one audio plate audio port, wherein the at least one secondary latch element audio port comprises the at least one audio plate audio port.

11. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 10, wherein the secondary latch element further comprises:

a seal coupled between the audio element and at least a portion of the housing, wherein the seal includes at least one seal audio port aligned with the at least one audio plate audio port, and wherein the at least one secondary latch element audio port further comprises the at least one seal audio port.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

12. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises:

a fixed housing portion; and

a removable housing portion, wherein the receiving element is contained within the removable housing portion, and further wherein the removable housing portion is assembled to the fixed housing portion when the latch element is engaged within the housing.

13. (original) The latching mechanism as defined in claim 12, wherein the electronic device further comprises a keypad, and further wherein the keypad is assembled between the fixed housing portion and the removable housing portion and the removable housing portion when the latch element is engaged within the housing.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

14. (currently amended) An electronic device, comprising:
a housing, comprising:
a fixed housing portion;
a removable housing portion having a recess and at least one audio port, wherein the audio port is part of the recess;
a latching mechanism for assembling the removable housing portion to the fixed housing portion, wherein the latch mechanism comprises:
a latch element rotatably coupled to the removable housing portion, wherein the latch element rotation includes an orientation for engaging the latch element to assemble the removable housing portion to the fixed housing portion; and
an audio channel, wherein the audio port is part of the audio channel and the audio channel is formed when the removable housing portion is assembled to the fixed housing portion.

15. (original) The electronic device as defined in claim 14, wherein the latch element rotation further includes another orientation for disengaging the latch element to disassemble the removable housing portion from the fixed housing portion.

16. (currently amended) The electronic device as defined in claim 14, ~~wherein the removable housing portion includes a recess,~~ wherein a gap is formed between the latch element and the recess when the removable housing portion is assembled to the fixed housing portion, and further wherein the audio channel comprises the gap.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

17. (original) The electronic device of claim 14, wherein the latching mechanism further comprises:

a secondary latch element, wherein the housing is mechanically coupled between the latch element and at least a portion of the secondary latch element, wherein the secondary latch element comprises at least one secondary latch element audio port aligned with the at least one audio port, and further wherein the audio channel further comprises the at least one secondary latch element audio port.

18. (original) The electronic device as defined in claim 14, a keypad, wherein the keypad is assembled between the fixed housing portion and the removable housing portion.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

19. (currently amended) A method of operating a latching mechanism, comprising the steps of:

mechanically coupling a latch element to a recess of a housing, wherein the recess includes at least one audio port;

creating an audio channel by engaging the latch element within the housing, wherein the audio ports are part of the audio channel; and

porting audio through the audio ports of the audio channel.

20. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 19, wherein the mechanically coupling step includes forming a gap between the latch element and the housing, and further wherein the audio channel created in the creating step comprises the gap.

21. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 19, wherein engaging of the latch element within the housing comprises rotating the latch element to an orientation.

22. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 21, wherein the housing comprises a fixed housing portion mechanically to a removable housing portion, the method further comprising the step of:

assembling a keypad between the fixed housing portion and the removable housing portion in response to the engaging of the latch element within the housing.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

23. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

disengaging the latch element from the housing by rotating the latch element to another orientation.

24. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 23, wherein the housing comprises a fixed housing portion mechanically to a removable housing portion, the method further comprising the step of:

disassembling the removable housing portion from the fixed housing portion in response to the disengaging step.

25. (currently amended) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of:

mechanically coupling at least a portion of the housing between the latch element and at least a portion of a secondary latch element,

wherein the creating of the audio channel step further comprises aligning ~~an~~ the audio ports of the housing with a secondary latch element audio ports of the secondary latch element.

26. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of:

mechanically coupling an audio element to the secondary latch element.

Application S/N 10/741,653
Amendment Dated: January 31, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: September 26, 2005

CE12083JME

27. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

generating an audio output by the audio element; and
transmitting the audio output through the audio channel.

28. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an audio input; and
transferring the audio input to the audio element through the audio
channel.

29. (canceled)